

Draft

Rockville Environment Commission Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, April 6, 2017

Diamondback Terrapin, City Hall,
111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Chair John Becker, Steve Cardon, Alicia Hosmer, Clark Reed, Lea Rosenbohm, and Fedon Vayanis.

Commissioners Absent: Larissa Johnson, Steve Sprague

Council Liaison: Mark Pierzchala

City Staff: Erica Shingara

Guests: Seymour Garte, Monica Savaas, Stephanie Riddick

Meeting Commencement and Introductions

- The meeting convened at 7:00 pm by Chair Becker.
- Ms. Riddick requested a proposal for the Environment Commissions of Montgomery County, Gaithersburg, Takoma Park, and Rockville to meet and discuss common issues and review legislation. The Commission recalled past efforts to arrange multi-city meetings among several Maryland jurisdictions and indicated that future meetings could be more effective if they focused on a common goal or issue. Ms. Riddick is meeting with various commissions throughout Montgomery County to gauge interest.
- Introductions of Commissioners and guests.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Vayanis moved and Commissioner Hosmer seconded a motion to approve the April 6, 2017 agenda. The motion passed (6-0).

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Becker distributed supplemental information requested at the last meeting for the Environmental Excellence Awards. Commissioner Reed moved and Commissioner Rosenbohm seconded a motion to approve the March 2, 2017 minutes. The motion passed (6-0).

Chair Update

- Chair Becker reported that the Statewide legislature passed and Governor Hogan signed the statewide ban on fracking. He noted the Commission's and City's work to support the ban.
 - **Action Item:** Chair Becker will draft a letter of appreciation.
- Chair Becker reported that the bill proposing a statewide prohibition on polystyrene food service products and loose fill packaging did not make it out of committee. A future study is anticipated with plans to reintroduce at the next session.
- Chair Becker thanked all members that participated in the Earth Day Proclamation.

Prospective Candidates

Chair Becker provided an overview of the Environment Commission and the Committee chairs provided a summary of Committee activities. The two prospective candidates introduced themselves, discussed their professional backgrounds, interests in serving on the Commission and Committees, and identified environmental issues important in Rockville.

Events and Hometown Holidays (HTH) Planning

- Maryvale Stream Cleanup: Commissioner Cardon reminded the Commission that the cleanup is scheduled on Saturday April 8th from 10:30 a.m. until noon and that student service learning hours are available. Gloves, grabbers and bags will be provided.
- Montgomery Energy Challenge: Staff reported the point status for the energy challenge and reminder Commissioners to complete their home energy activities and submit documentation to staff by April 22.
- Hometown Holidays: Commissioner Rosenbohm reported that she submitted the registration form. Staff indicated that they are waiting to hear back on scheduling, location and partnering with another commission to use the booth on Sunday.
 - **Action Item:** Commissioner Rosenbohm volunteered to arrange registration for the booth and volunteers between 1:30 to 8.
- Commission annual report:
 - **Action Item** Chair Becker will email the revised draft report to the Commission for review prior to sending to the Mayor and Council.

Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Stakeholder Process

The updated draft climate action plan summary table with committee comments was distributed. Committees noted their review status:

- **Energy Committee:** Ongoing review of Sections 1 (Reduce energy consumption), Section 2 (Increase renewables), a portion of Section 3 (Advance Sustainable Regional Mobility) and a portion of Section 4 (Increase Sustainable Urban Development)
- **Watershed Committee:** Completed portions of Section 4 (Increase Sustainable Urban Development)
- **Composting and Recycling Committee:** Completed Section 5 (Move toward zero waste)
- **Sustainability Committee:** Ongoing review of portions of Section 3 (Advance Sustainable Regional Mobility) and a portion of Section 4 (Increase Sustainable Urban Development).

The Commission noted that since there were more than 100 actions in the draft CAP it will be important to prioritize actions for Mayor and Council consideration based on feasibility, effectiveness and level of resource requirements.

- **Actions:** Committees will continue to review their sections. In order to help prioritize actions, they will identify up to 2 priority actions from each section for discussion in May.
- **Action Items for All Committees:** Sections 6 (Build regional resilience), Section 7 (Grow the regional clean economy) and Section 8 (Protect equity and health).

Committee Reports:

- ***Composting and Recycling Committees:*** Commissioner Rosenbohm reported that the Committee did not meet in March due to the snow closure. They received a draft proof recycling education sign for HTH recycling bins.
- ***Energy Committee:*** Commissioner Reed reported the committee evaluated potential rooftop solar hosts for a community solar. They sent out 9 letters to property owners of large buildings and received 3 responses of potential interest: FedEx, Rockville Housing Enterprises and Rockville Christian Church. They have set up an informational introductory meeting on April 18.
- ***Sustainability:*** Commissioner Hosmer reported that the Community Wildlife Habitat Celebration in March was a success with approximately 45 people attending. She thanked all that attended and contributed and noted that a Channel 11 video recorded the event, the National Wildlife Federation donated several raffle items, and there was interest from the community on information meetings, plant swaps and garden tours.
 - **Action Item:** Commissioner Hosmer will be writing a white paper on participating in Mayor's Monarch Pledge and checking with staff on the next steps for recertification in July.
- ***Watershed:*** Commissioner Cardon reported that they submitted comments on the draft NPDES MS4 permit, worked on section 4 of the Climate Action Plan and planned the Maryvale stream cleanup on April 8th.

Environment Management Division Update

- Staff reported on upcoming events, including Earth Month activities and Greenfest. The City is also getting estimates for an electrical vehicle charging station at City Hall. The location is subject to design and cost feasibility.

New Business

- Chair Becker inquired about next steps for the polystyrene ban and requested future discussion.
- Councilmember Pierzchala reported several updates. The proposed State stormwater legislation requiring state and counties to pay municipal SWM charges did not make it out of committee. The Mayor and Council adopted the Bikeway Master Plan on April 3rd. A public hearing was held on the Outdoor Smoking Ban. He will attend a Smart City tour of Rockville on Saturday and will not be able to attend the stream cleanup.
- The Commission discussed future opportunities to join Councilmember Pierzchala to walk select City streams and archive conditions next winter.
 - **Action Item:** Staff will send a link to a website for a GIS based virtual stream tour that documents streams conditions.

Executive Session

The Commission convened in Executive Session to discuss vacancies. Commissioner Cardon announced that after serving 8 years on the Commission, he will be resigning to allow for new talent. He will continue to serve on the Watershed Committee and other REC activities. The Commission thanked him for his extensive service and noted the two vacancies. The Commission reviewed the open applications and recommended the appointments of Monica Saavos and Seymour Garte for consideration by the Mayor and Council.

Rockville Environment Commission

April 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Page 4

Adjourn

The Commission adjourned by acclamation at 9:33 p.m.

Next Commission Meeting

The Commission will tentatively meet on **Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Diamondback Terrapin Conference Room at the Rockville City Hall**, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville Maryland 20850-2321. The public is invited to attend.